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L.1 SOLICITATION PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FAR 52.252-1) (FEB 1998)

This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The Offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the Offeror and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions, the Offeror may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Also, the full text of a solicitation provision may be accessed electronically at this address: <http://www.arnet.gov/far>.

FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (48 CFR CHAPTER 1)

NUMBER	DATE	TITLE
52.204-6	OCT 2003	DATA UNIVERSAL NUMBERING SYSTEM (DUNS) NUMBER
52.214-34	APR 1991	SUBMISSION OF OFFERS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
52.214-35	APR 1991	SUBMISSION OF OFFERS IN U.S. CURRENCY
52.215-1	JAN 2004	INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS-COMPETITIVE ACQUISITIONS (ALTERNATES I AND II)
52.215-16	JUN 2003	FACILITIES CAPITAL COST OF MONEY
52.222-24	FEB 1999	PREAWARD ON-SITE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW

L.2 REGULATORY NOTICE (CAR 1352.252-71) (MAR 2000)

Offerors are advised that certain provisions and clauses identified with a Commerce Acquisition Regulation (CAR) notation for identification purposes, have not yet been incorporated into the CAR. However, all of these items are binding for this acquisition and will eventually be contained in the CAR at Part 13 of Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

L.3 INQUIRIES (CAR 1352.215-73) (MAR 2000)

Offerors must submit all questions concerning this solicitation in writing to the Contracting Officer. **Questions submitted within 45 days after issuance of this solicitation shall be answered prior to the proposal due date.** Any Amendments issued and all responses to questions will be posted on both the Acquisition Management Division web site (<http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML>) and the web site established specifically for this acquisition (<http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov/>).

OFFERORS ARE INSTRUCTED SPECIFICALLY TO CONTACT ONLY THE PERSON CITED IN BLOCK 10 OF THE SF33 ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF THIS REQUIREMENT PRIOR TO CONTRACT AWARD.

Offerors may use the RDHPCS Q&A web site to contact the person cited in Block 10 of the SF33. The RFP Q&A URL is: <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov/>

L.4 TYPE OF CONTRACT (FAR 52.216-1) (APR 1984)

The Government contemplates award of a fixed-price, lease contract resulting from this solicitation. Included in this Solicitation and resulting contract are an indefinite quantity options for support services (CLIN 0011) and workstreams, maintenance, network, compute, storage, software and workstations (CLIN 0010. If exercised, the workstreams, maintenance, network, compute, storage, software and workstations (CLIN 0010) will be acquired on a firm-fixed price basis and the support services (CLIN 0011) will be acquired on a labor-hour basis.

L.5 SUBMISSION OF OFFERS

(a) Markings: It is important that the outer envelope or wrapping of your offer be addressed as follows:

Offeror's return address

TO: SEE SPECIFIC ADDRESSES CITED BELOW

Solicitation No. DG1330-05-RP-1038

Closing Date: March 10, 2005

Closing Time: 12:00 PM local time

(b) HAND CARRIED OFFERS: Proposals hand carried must be delivered to the offices cited below (SEALED OFFERS ONLY). Hand carried offers must be delivered and contact must be made with the below offices by the date and time specified in this solicitation. Proposals received at the destination(s) after the date and time specified for receipt will be considered LATE and dealt with in accordance with the Late Proposals Provisions of paragraph (c)(3) of FAR 52.215-01, INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS - COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.

All proposals (offers) shall be submitted in the quantities and format specified below:

L.5.1 STANDARD FORM 33, SOLICITATION, OFFER, AND AWARD

The Standard Form 33, Solicitation, Offer, and Award, (SF 33) is being used for this solicitation. This form is used by the Government as a request for proposal and upon submission by the Offeror it becomes the Offeror's proposal. As such it is an offer which can be unilaterally accepted by the Contracting Officer and awarded on said SF 33. The offer and acceptance form the contract. Therefore, the following points must be strictly adhered to by the Offeror in submitting the proposal.

(a) The SF 33 must be executed by a representative of the Offeror authorized to commit the Offeror to contractual obligations. The authority to sign a proposal, but not an offer, subject to unilateral acceptance and award, is not sufficient authorization to sign the SF 33.

(b) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE ALTERATIONS OR CHANGES TO THE SF 33 OR THE RELATED PAGES WHICH ARE A PART OF THE ENCLOSED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND PROPOSAL PACKET. You are to complete those parts which require items such as prices, place of performance, etc., when such items are called for in the enclosed request for proposal. A place is provided for you to insert such information.

Three- (3) originally executed (i.e., with original signatures) copies of the Standard Form of contract (SF 33) and one (1) copy of Section K fully executed shall be submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9734
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.2 OFFEROR'S TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

The technical proposal shall be submitted in hard copies and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CDROM, formatted in Portable Document Format (PDF) format. Twelve (12) hard copies and twelve (12) machine readable CDROM copies of the Offeror's technical proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.1 to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William Turnbull, Director HPCC Office
U.S. Department of Commerce / NOAA
Office of the CIO, HPCC
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9600
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Two (2) copies of the Offeror's technical proposal (hard copy only) shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.1 to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.3 OFFEROR'S COST/PRICE PROPOSAL

The Cost/Price proposal shall be submitted in hard copy and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CDROM, formatted in Portable Document Format (PDF) and or Microsoft Excel format. All financial tables submitted are required to be in Microsoft Excel format. Five (5) hard copies and ten (10) machine readable CDROM copies of the Offeror's Cost/Price Proposal shall be prepared in the format described in Section L.6.2 and Section B and submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William Turnbull, Director HPCC Office
U.S. Department of Commerce / NOAA
Office of the CIO, HPCC
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9600
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Two (2) hard copies and one machine readable CDROM copy of the Offeror's Cost/Price Proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.2 and Section B to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.4 PAST PERFORMANCE

The information requested in L.6 PAST PERFORMANCE shall be submitted as follows:

Twelve (12) hard copies and one machine readable CDROM copy shall be submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William Turnbull, Director HPCC Office
U.S. Department of Commerce / NOAA
Office of the CIO, HPCC
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9600
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Two (2) copies of the Offeror's past performance (hard copy only) shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.3 to the following address

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.5 OFFEROR'S FACILITY PROPOSAL

The facility proposal shall be submitted in hard copies and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CDROM, formatted in Portable Document Format (PDF) format. All financial tables submitted are required to be in Microsoft Excel format. Twelve (12) hard copies and twelve (12) machine readable CDROM copies of the Offeror's facility proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.8 to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William Turnbull, Director HPCC Office
U.S. Department of Commerce / NOAA
Office of the CIO, HPCC
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9600
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Two (2) copies of the Offeror's facility proposal (hard copy only) shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.8 to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.6 SUBCONTRACTING PLAN

In accordance with FAR 52.219-9, SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN (included in Section I.1 by reference), Offerors (large business concerns only) are required to submit a Small Business Subcontracting Plan. Reference L.15, SUBCONTRACTING SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-507, and L.16, HUBZONE SUBCONTRACTING GOALS, of this Section for applicable subcontracting goals. This Plan shall be included with the initial proposal and submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.7 LIVE TEST DEMONSTRATION

The Government will conduct pre-award Live Test Demonstrations (LTDs) to examine the components of the R&D HPCCS that is being offered. **Only those Offerors within the competitive range (See M.1.2) will be scheduled for the LTD.** A LTD system hardware configuration very similar to the proposed R&D HPCCS system configuration should be used. A LTD software configuration that is as close as possible to the proposed R&D HPCCS configuration, excluding Government-provided application codes, must be used and

documented. Offerors should clearly state any differences between the LTD hardware and software configurations and the proposed R&D HPCS configuration if the two are not identical. Additional consideration will be given if the LTD system, both hardware and software, is identical to the proposed initial system.

Requirements to be met during the LTD include (but are not limited to):

- 1) A demonstration of the performance levels of the proposed system in as much detail as possible.
- 2) A demonstration of the features of the architecture which support the extrapolation of performance (if any) to the proposed system from the systems used in the LTD and to supply data for the RFP response.
- 3) Verification of the benchmark data presented in the RFP response.
- 4) Examination of the proposed interactive environment. After the performance data presented in the RFP response has been verified, a scripted interactive session will be run by itself and concurrently with benchmark codes to evaluate how well the interactive resources are isolated from the batch production workload.
- 5) A functional demonstration of the proposed Hierarchical Storage Management (HSM) software, separate from the timed benchmark demonstration. This demonstration must show the proposed HSM software in operation, and allow the Government to interact with the demonstration system. The proposed HSM hardware is not required for this demonstration but a limited hardware suite may add to the usefulness of this demonstration and aid in evaluation of the software.
- 6) If a heterogeneous architecture is proposed, demonstrate the ability to run a set of workstreams across all the platforms.

One or more written problems will be presented regarding problem escalation procedures. The Offeror will be required to explain how they would handle the problem(s) as described.

The Government will allocate an Offeror two consecutive days for the LTD. NOAA expects its LTD work to take about six hours. At the discretion of the Government, the LTDs will take place at either the vendor's facility or at a Government facility. If the LTD is held at the vendor's facility the vendor must provide capabilities and resources to allow participation by remote Government personnel. The LTD will begin at 9:00 AM and end no later than 9:00 PM local time on the first day. If the Offeror is unable to successfully complete the LTD on the first day, the LTD will continue on the second day. Should an Offeror successfully complete a portion(s) of the LTD on the first day, at the Government's discretion, the Offeror may be required to complete only the remaining or unsuccessful portion(s) the second day. If any portion of the LTD is performed on the second day, it will begin not earlier than 9:00 AM local time and will terminate before 3:00 PM. If the Offeror is unable to successfully complete the LTD on the second day, the Government will not provide another opportunity to successfully complete the LTD. Failure to successfully complete the LTD may, but will not necessarily, result in disqualification of the Offeror from further consideration. Such failure may also result in the downgrade of the Offeror's proposal.

L.6 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals shall be prepared and submitted as described below.

L.6.1 TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

The technical proposal must address all the elements in Section C, Statement of Need. The technical proposal will be used to evaluate an Offerors' ability to provide and perform the requirements detailed in Section C. Offerors should bear in mind that Risk will be assessed for all elements of the technical proposal.

The technical proposal must be organized with sections tabbed and arranged as described in L.6.1.1. The arrangement will follow the elements of Section C for the most part. The technical proposal, at the least, should describe the Offeror's response to the requirements contained in Section C. The technical proposal should include additional information the Offeror believes will more completely describe their ability to meet NOAA's needs.

The technical proposal must be prepared using the Times New Roman font in 12 point size for all text portions. It must be formatted to print double-sided on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1" margins on all sides. Page numbers must be printed in the bottom margin, centered, in the format "section - page", where section is the Section C section number, and page begins at 1 for each section. The requested hardcopies must be bound.

The technical proposal must use October 1, 2005, as the start of the R&D HPCS system life. Upgrades must be specified as "month/year. The acceptance test for each upgrade starts on the first day of the specified month.

The technical proposal must not exceed 100 pages in length (50 sheets of paper when printed double sided). The final revision of the technical proposal must be provided as a complete document, not as change pages. In addition, a change document must be provided in which all deleted text is marked with a "strikeout" (i.e., ~~strikeout~~) and added or modified text is yellow color-highlighted (i.e., **yellow-color highlighted**).

The technical proposal organization is provided below. Instructions are provided and Section C text has been paraphrased for the sake of brevity. Offerors must refer to Section C for the full text.

L.6.1.1 Technical Proposal Organization

TAB 1 PROCUREMENT OBJECTIVES

Demonstrate your understanding of NOAA's new approach for managing its HPC resources based on its functional requirements as described in C.1.

Explain how your proposed solution meets NOAA's current programmatic requirements, as represented by the funding profile presented in Table I in section C.4.3, and how your proposed solution can adapt to possible changes in these requirements.

TAB 2 BENCHMARKS

Describe how the benchmark requirements described in section C.4.2 will be achieved during the base contract period. Include in the description a detailed plan for meeting the requirements for the initial deliveries for WS7 - WS9 that are required in Q1FY2006 and for the initial deliveries for WS1 - WS6 that are required in Q1FY2007. Include in the description a detailed plan for meeting the requirement for

maximum System Life Throughput obtained by a significant mid-life upgrade that will not front-load or back-load performance. The mid-contract upgrades for WS1 – WS6 are desired to occur in Q2 or Q3FY2008. The mid-contract upgrades for WS7 – WS9 are desired to occur during Q4FY2007 or Q1FY2008. Follow the instructions that are described in Section J and use the spreadsheets that are provided for submitting benchmark results.

TAB 3 HPC SUB-SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Provide a high-level system description of the proposed R&D HPCS that meets the requirements described in section C.5 for the base contract period. Describe system components, such as nodes and interconnect fabric, and the overall architecture of the system with particular attention to performance and system dependability. Describe design aspects that maximize performance such as different node types, memory distribution, etc. Include diagrams and specifications of all major sub-system components. Include in the description the rationale used to select the various brand components that comprise the proposed HPCS. List the various brand components that were considered along with any performance specifications or test results that were used in the selection of the proposed HPCS. Describe if the Offeror will provide the Government with any pre-delivery access to the system and how it will be implemented.

TAB 3.1 Large Scale Computing Component (LSC)

Describe how the proposed LSC will meet the requirements described in section C.5.1.1 for the base contract period. Include in this description the calculation used to compute the system life throughput for the LSC.

TAB 3.2 Interactive Component

Describe how the proposed developmental component will meet the requirements described in section C.5.1.2 for the base contract period.

TAB 3.3 Post Processing and Analysis Component

Describe how the proposed post processing and analysis component will meet the requirements described in section C.5.1.3 for the base contract period.

TAB 3.4 Data Management Requirement

Describe how the proposed system will provide data integrity and provide at least 99% availability for data access as required in section C.5.2 for the base contract period.

TAB 3.4.1 Home File System (HFS)

Describe how the proposed HFS will meet the requirements described in section C.5.2.1 for the base contract period.

TAB 3.4.2 Fast Scratch File System (FSFS)

Describe how the proposed FSFS will meet the requirements described in section C.5.2.2 for the base contract period.

TAB 3.4.3 Long Term Scratch File System (LTSFS)

Describe how the proposed LTSFS will meet the requirements described in section C.5.2.3 for the base contract period.

TAB 3.4.4 Hierarchical Storage Management System (HSM)

Describe how the proposed HSMS will meet the requirements described in section C.5.2.4 for the base contract period. Describe how the proposed solution will meet the requirement for providing uninterrupted access to the Government's legacy data.

Include in the description such things as: how the HSMS software searches for archived files on a tape, if the tape drive's fast-search features will be used, show a calculation of the aggregate tape positioning rate for small frequently used files, and a calculation for the large files in the near-line tier, describe the process or mechanism for identifying tapes that have become broken, describe the process for recovering data from tapes that have been physically damaged and how the legacy archived will be addressed.

TAB 3.4.5 Interfaces to the NOAA Operational Central Computer System (OCCS) and the Backup OCCS

Describe how the proposed solution will meet the interface requirements described in section C.5.2.5.

TAB 3.4.6 Data Generation Profile

Describe how the proposed data management system will be able to support the data volumes detailed in sections C.5.2.6.1 and C.5.2.6.2 for each workstream and section C.5.2.6.3 for the OCCS and the backup OCCS for the base contract period

TAB 3.4.7 Data Retention Profile

Describe how the proposed data management system will be able to support the data volumes detailed in Table III in section C.5.2.7 for the base contract period.

TAB 3.4.8 Automated Backup

Describe the hardware, software, and process that will be used to meet the requirements in section C.5.2.8 for the base contract period.

TAB 4 SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

TAB 4.1 Resource Management Software

Describe the software that will be implemented to meet the requirements in section C.5.3.1 for the base contract period. Indicate whether or not any of the desired features that are mentioned in this section will also be met with this solution. Include a description of how the software is licensed.

TAB 4.2 Batch Queuing Software

Describe the software that will be implemented to meet the requirements in section C.5.3.2 for the base contract period. Indicate whether or not any of the desired features that are mentioned in this section will also be met with this solution.

TAB 4.3 Programming Environment Software

Describe how the software listed in section C.5.3.3 will be provided and provisioned across the R&D HPCS for the base contract period. Include a description of how the software will be licensed.

TAB 4.4 COTS

Describe how the software listed in section C.5.3.4 will be provided and provisioned across the R&D HPCS. Include a description of how the software will be licensed for the base contract period.

TAB 4.5 Community Supported Software

Describe how the software listed in section C.5.3.5 will be provided and provisioned across the R&D HPCS. Include a description of how the software will be licensed for the base contract period.

TAB 4.6 Proposed Software

If the proposal contains any software that was not specifically required, the Offeror will provide information pertaining to the installed base of any such software.

TAB 4.7 System Software

Describe how node operating system (OS) upgrades will affect application programs and job scripts. Describe the expected impact of upgrades of the OS on libraries pertaining to numerical results with respect to object files. Describe how OS upgrades will be managed. Describe the resources that will be used to test OS and application software upgrades. If checkpoint/restart capabilities are offered, describe what is being provided and how it will work.

TAB 5 NETWORK REQUIREMENTS

Provide a description, [specifications, and](#) diagram(s) of the proposed network architecture that will be implemented to meet the [four major](#) requirements [described in](#) section C.5.4 for the base contract period. Include expected data transfer rates and expected response times. The proposal should clearly indicate how the requirements for data browsing, interactive debugging and file editing at the required frame rates per second and quality of service will be met.

[Tab 5.1 Receipt of data from external sources](#)

[Describe how the proposed solution will deliver the data described in section C.5.4.1. Explain how the data ingest requirements for each of the workstreams described in sections C.5.4.1.1, C.5.4.1.2, and C.5.4.1.3 will be met.](#)

[Tab 5.2 Transfer of data to and from the R&D HSMS](#)

Provide diagrams, specifications and a description of the proposed data communications that will be used to support the interface with the R&D HSMS and the various R&D HPC subsystems and users, as described in C.5.4.2.

TAB 5.3 [Support for User Activities](#)

[Describe how the proposed solution will meet the requirements of the four \(4\) major activities described in C.5.4.3.1. Include how remote users will access the R&D HPCS and specify expected response times that a typical remote user might experience during a typical interactive session.](#)

TAB 5.3.1 User profile for WS7-WS9

Describe how the network architecture being proposed will meet the requirements described in section C.5.4.[3.1.1](#) for the base contract period.

TAB 5.[3.2](#) User profile for WS4-WS6

Describe how the network architecture being proposed will meet the requirements described in section C.5.4.[3.1.2](#) for the base contract period.

TAB 5.[3.3](#) User profile for WS1-WS3

Describe how the network architecture being proposed will meet the requirements described in section C.5.4.[3.1.3](#) for the base contract period.

TAB 5.4 [Data Interface to the OCCS and Backup OCCS](#)

Describe how the proposed solution will meet the requirement described in section C.5.4.4.

TAB 6 IT SECURITY

Describe the IT security hardware, software, and procedures that will be incorporated into the design of the proposed system that meet the requirements of section C.5.5 for the base contract period. Provide diagrams, specifications, [and license information for](#) all [hardware and software](#) that is proposed.

TAB 7 RELIABILITY AND AVAILABILITY REQUIREMENTS

During the base contract period describe how the Offeror will provide support for the requirements in section C.6.1.

TAB 7.1 Reliability

Describe your understanding of what constitutes downtime and the elements described in section C.6.1.1.

TAB 7.2 Availability

Provide the proposed Availability number. Describe your understanding of how availability will be measured as described in section C.6.1.2. Include in the description any tools and technologies that will be implemented to meet or monitor availability.

Provide a table that shows the system life throughput for each workstream for each year of the base period of the contract.

TAB 8 SUPPORT SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

TAB 8.1 Support

Describe your support structure that will be implemented to meet the 96% system availability as described in section C.7.1 for the base contract period.

TAB 8.2 Training

Describe how the training requirements listed in section C.7.2 will be met for the base contract period.

TAB 9 PROJECT PLAN REQUIREMENTS**TAB 9.1 Project Management**

Give a brief description of how the project is to be organized, staffed, and managed, identifying all subcontractors that meet the requirements stated in section C.8.1. Include in the description the number of software engineers, hardware engineers, and applications analysts proposed, and describe their qualifications and duties.

TAB 9.2 Transition to “One NOAA”

NOAA requires the Offeror to provide a transition plan over the term of the base period of this contract to move NOAA from its current organization-based business processes toward the “One NOAA” approach identified in section C.8.2. The transition plan will identify the approach proposed to be followed; the various components to be used; the phasing of the various components; the testing plan; and the final state of the transition at the end of the base period. The vendor will include use cases describing how the user will work at the various phases of the implementation of the integration. In proposing a solution, the vendor shall identify the costs and the performance trade-offs necessary to implement the solution.

TAB 9.3 Documentation

Provide a description of how the Offeror proposes to provide the various documents described in section C.8.3.

TAB 9.4 Configuration and Change Management Plan

Provide a detailed description of how the configuration management and any associated change processes for the R&D HPCS will be maintained over the life of the contract as described in section C.8.4.

TAB 9.5 Transition Requirements

Provide a detailed description and plan covering the transition period from the three existing contracts to this new contract. The plan must describe how the Offeror will migrate the three legacy architectures into the proposed architecture. Include expected timelines, milestones, and identify major risk areas along with mitigation plans. The plan should include a description of any data migration that might be required to meet the Government’s need to maintain uninterrupted access to its legacy data. In addition, describe how the requirements in section C.8.5 will be met.

TAB 10 CONTRACT OPTIONS**TAB 10.1 Option period**

The Offeror should describe their approach for meeting the requirements for the four-year option period (FY2010 – FY2013) described in section C.9.1. Describe how the approach will address maximizing the system life throughput of the workstreams.

TAB 10.2 One-year option

The Offeror should describe their approach for meeting the requirements for the one-year option periods described in sections C.9.2 (FY2010) and C.9.3 (FY2014).

TAB 10.3 Additional R&D HPCS Augmentations

Describe how the Offeror will meet the requirements described in section C.9.4 utilizing an ID/IQ mechanism.

TAB 10.4 Engineering Support

Describe how the Offeror will provide the engineering support as described in sections [C.9.5.1](#), [C.9.5.2](#), and [C.9.5.3](#) utilizing an ID/IQ mechanism.

TAB 11 EXCEPTIONS

List all exceptions taken to the Government's requirements, giving the Offeror's rationale for each exception.

TAB 12 OFFEROR QUALIFICATIONS

Give a brief description of the Offeror addressing the qualifications, experience, and corporate resources that allow the Offeror to satisfy the Government's requirements.

L.6.2 COST PROPOSALS

L.6.2.1 Offerors are required to provide detailed pricing proposals that include all cost elements by month (e.g., lease cost, hardware maintenance, software maintenance, on-site support, etc.) for the base period of the contract. Offerors are required to submit separate pages for each contract year depicting all costs. If alternate methods of acquisition are proposed, a separate proposal for each acquisition method must be submitted.

L.6.2.2 The Offeror is required to include the following in its cost/price proposal:

- A. Price for hardware by item.
- B. Price for software. Provide monthly pricing for each item of software offered. Indicate if it is leased software or purchased software.
- C. A breakout by labor category of all services proposed (e.g., hardware maintenance, software maintenance, on-site applications analyst, etc.) and total price for each item. A separate breakout is required for each year of the base contract period.
- D. A detailed description and breakout of any other price proposed (e.g. communications, power, cooling, etc.)
- E. Separate pricing for all of the options described in section C.9.

L.6.2.3 If proposed, cost information for each subcontractor and consultant shall be furnished in the same format and level of detail as prescribed for the prime Offeror. Additionally, the Offeror shall submit the following information:

- 1.A description of the items to be furnished by the subcontractor.

2. Identification of the proposed subcontractor and an explanation of why and how the proposed subcontractor was selected including the extent of competition obtained.

3. The proposed subcontract price, the Offeror's cost or price analysis thereof, and performance/delivery schedule.

4. Identification of the type of subcontract to be used.

L.6.2.4 Offerors are not required to submit certified cost or pricing data with their cost proposal. Full-and-open competition will be used to determine prices fair and reasonable. However, Offerors may be requested to provide additional information in the event prices appear over-stated or under-stated.

L.6.2.5 Funding Profiles

Table I shows anticipated total available funding in \$ millions for the contract years

	<i>Base Period</i>				<i>Option Period</i>				<i>One-Year Options</i>
Fiscal Years	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010/2014
Contract Years (Base and Options)	\$3	\$22.8	\$22.8	\$22.8	\$22.8	\$22.8	\$22.8	\$22.8	\$11.4

Table II shows total funding in \$ millions minus the 6% reserve for the contract years

	<i>Base Period</i>				<i>Option Period</i>				<i>One-Year Options</i>
Fiscal Years	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010/2014
Contract Years (Base and Options)	\$2.82	\$21.43	\$21.43	\$21.43	\$21.43	\$21.43	\$21.43	\$21.43	\$10.72

Table III shows the expected funding ceilings in \$ millions for the Contract Augmentation and Engineering support Options

Fiscal Years	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010/2014
Contract Augmentations and Engineering Support	\$22.91	\$22.91	\$22.91	\$22.91	\$22.91	\$22.91	\$22.91	\$22.91	\$10.72

Offerors are required to submit cost/price proposals based upon Tables II and III. Table II covers the base contract period, the four-year option period, and the one-year contract transition period. Table III contains funding that Government may put on the contract for additional R&D HPCS Augmentations (C.9.4) and Engineering support (C.9.5).

L.6.2.6 As stated in Section B, the Government anticipates leasing the equipment during the base contract period and the option contract period. However, the Government will acquire ownership of the Hierarchical Storage Management System (HSMS) upon delivery, acceptance, and payment. The Government requires delivery of the HSMS during the initial year of the base contract period, and the initial year of the option contract period, should the option be exercised. Multiple deliveries of storage media may be provided over the term of the contract. The storage media will become Government property upon delivery, acceptance, and payment.

Any lease resulting from this Solicitation must be determined an “operating lease” in accordance with the policies set forth in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-11 and the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB). Accordingly, offerors are required to submit the following pricing information for the base contract period:

1. monthly lease price by component
2. monthly lease price for each software package
3. monthly maintenance price for leased hardware and software
4. monthly price associated with taxes
5. monthly price associated with insurance
6. monthly facilities rental (if applicable)
7. Communication costs (if applicable)
8. Power and cooling costs
9. Interest rate used to calculate lease payments.

L.6.2.7 In addition, offerors shall provide the fair market value (FMV) price for each proposed hardware component and software package and the basis for the FMV (e.g., GSA Federal Supply Schedule price, published commercial price, etc.)

L.6.3 PAST PERFORMANCE

In this section, the Offeror shall describe its capabilities (and those of its subcontractors and consultants, if any), and provide its experience with at least five (5) and no more than seven (7) **relevant** contracts of a similar nature and magnitude within the past three (3) years. The Offeror shall discuss how its previous experience prepares it to undertake a contract of the scope envisioned in this solicitation. The Offeror must provide information to assist the Government in assessing its ability to perform the contract as proposed.

References other than those identified by the Offeror may be contacted by the Government with the information received used in evaluating the Offeror's past performance.

The “Performance Evaluation Report” format is required by the Government to report this information.

Past Performance Report

Procurement Activity and address
Contracting Officer Name
Contracting Officer Telephone Number
Contracting Officer Address
Technical Point of Contact Name (must possess specialized technical knowledge of the high-performance computing components acquired.)
Technical Point of Contact Telephone Number
Technical Point of Contact Address
Type of Contract
Award Price
Final Price
Award Date

Description of Experience

L.7 COST REALISM

An offer is presumed to represent an Offeror's best efforts to respond to the solicitation. Any inconsistency, whether real or apparent, between promised performance and cost or price, should be explained in the proposal. For example, if the intended use of new and innovative production techniques is the basis for an abnormally low estimate, the nature of these techniques and their impact on cost/price should be explained; or, if a business policy decision has been made to absorb a portion of the estimated cost, that should be stated in the proposal. Any significant inconsistency, if unexplained, may raise a fundamental issue of understanding of the nature and scope of the work required and of the Offeror's financial ability to perform the contract, and may be grounds for rejection of the offer. The burden of proof as to cost credibility rests with the Offeror.

L.8 FACILITY PROPOSAL

The Offeror will submit a facility proposal that consists of facility sub-proposals for each site that is proposed. The facility proposal must be prepared using the Times New Roman font in 12 point size for all text portions. It must be formatted to print double-sided on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1" margins on all sides. Page numbers must be printed in the bottom margin, centered, in the format "section - page", where section is the Section C section number, and page begins at 1 for each section. The requested hardcopies must be bound.

Each facility sub-proposal must not exceed 30 pages in length (15 sheets of paper when printed double sided) for each site that is proposed (e.g., the facility proposal for one Government-provided site and one Contractor-provided site must not exceed 60 pages in total length). Contractors must provide any mechanical drawings in electronic format as AutoCad files on a CD-Rom as well as in the same 8.5" by 11" hardcopy format as above in an Appendix to their proposal; the hardcopy pages in these Appendices will not be counted in the 30-page limit per site. The final revision of the facility proposal must be provided as a complete document, not as change pages. In addition, a change document must be provided in which all deleted text is marked with a "strikeout" (i.e., ~~strikeout~~) and added or modified text is yellow color-highlighted (i.e., yellow-color highlighted).

Provide a facility proposal that meets the requirements described in section C.5.6.

If any of the Government-provided facilities described in Section C.11 are to be used, the Contractor must provide the following for each facility:

- 1) A detailed site-preparation plan that prescribes facility modifications, with schedule, that are required for initial equipment installation and any subsequent equipment transitions during the base contract. Contractors that propose to use [GSFC](#), BLDR-1 and/or BLDR-2 must provide a detailed description of site modifications, including cost estimate, so that credits can be provided to the Government for work to be completed by GSA [or NASA](#) contractors.
- 2) A plan indicating expected usage of facility resources (e.g., raised floor space, peak power load, peak cooling load) as a function of time throughout the base contract
- 3) Identification of any additional resources required by the Contractor's proposal that are above those projected by the Government to be available and a plan indicating how these resources would be obtained
- 4) Equipment characteristics of each major component, including:
 - Equipment dimensions, weight, and quantity
 - Cooling requirements and cooling design
 - Power requirements and power distribution design
- 5) Analysis of each proposed system configuration to demonstrate sufficient UPS capacity graceful system shutdown
- 6) Identification of any site-restricted GFE equipment that the Contractor proposes to use, including any refurbishment or enhancement that is needed
- 7) Identification of any unrestricted GFE equipment from another Government site that the Contractor proposes to use. Proposed shipping arrangements should be identified, including procedures for its return at the end of the contract.
- 8) Any additional facility enhancements, with implementation plan, that the Contractor proposes in order to assure robust operation

If any Contractor-provided facility is proposed, the Contractor must provide the following in the facility proposal:

- 1) A copy of the site operating plan, including facility management procedures
- 2) A copy of the physical security procedures
- 3) A statement of how NOAA remote computer operators would be informed of deteriorating facility conditions such as rising room temperatures or an air handler failure
- 4) A copy of the facility's disaster recovery plan
- 5) One-line (logic) diagrams of the electrical service and cooling service
- 6) An energy density (watts per square foot) projection plotted over the contract life
- 7) A spreadsheet listing the type and age of facility equipment to be used. Examples are: UPS systems and power conditioners, chillers, heat exchangers, air handlers
- 8) A copy of the contract statement of work for any commercial facility management company used, or the equivalent if performed in-house. Preventative maintenance schedules, proactive inspections, and quality assurance methods are examples
- 9) A brief (2-3 paragraphs) description of the procedures used to acquire off-site emergency service, including minimum response times and escalation procedures
- 10) A statement (one paragraph) as to how coverage and services are made available after-hours and on holidays
- 11) A statement (paragraph) projecting the minimum UPS power protection period (survival time) that is required, when utility power fails, in order to assure graceful system shutdown.

Also provide a maintenance schedule on UPS systems that would address any UPS deterioration.

- 12) A brief description of the fire protection systems and certification standards
- 13) A brief description of any automated facility controls such as computer-managed failover systems
- 14) A bio (curriculum vitae) of the facility manager's experience and training
- 15) A description of facility alterations and changes to be made to the offered space if the Offeror is successful
- 16) A list of all unrestricted Government furnished equipment to be used, including a schedule for shipment to the site and procedures for its return at the end of the contract

The Government reserves the right to conduct site visits of all proposed Contractor-provided facilities during the procurement evaluation. During the site visit, the Government may inspect:

- 1) Mechanical rooms
- 2) Raised floor plenums, drainage, cable tracks, labeling, and management
- 3) Network cabling protection and redundancy provisions
- 4) Power and cooling distribution and control systems
- 5) Logs of equipment failures, corrective actions taken and maintenance results
- 6) Preventive maintenance schedules
- 7) Emergency plans, and results of drills
- 8) Testing procedures and schedules
- 9) Training provided to facility managers, maintenance and physical security personnel
- 10) Safety and fire protection equipment and operation
- 11) Any other relevant materials that will enable the government to assess the reliability and safety of the facility
- 12) Physical Security

L.9 DRAWINGS AND VISIT TO GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED FACILITIES

The Government offers all interested Offerors the following opportunities for obtaining additional information about the Government-provided facilities that are described in Section C.11:

Request for Facility Drawings

Interested Offerors may obtain a copy of available facility drawings for these facilities by downloading the designated forms located on the public website and completing the forms, including signature of an authorized official of the company. Contractors must send these completed forms (which include GSA Document Security Order PBS 3490.1) for the GSA-controlled facilities, BLDR-1, ~~and BLDR-2, and LARGO~~ and other forms, as specified at the website, <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov>, for the Princeton ~~and Fairmont~~ facilities) to the following address for receipt no later than close of business (COB) on Friday, January 21, 2005:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
 U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
 Acquisition Management Division
 1315 East West Highway, Room 9734
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Procedures for obtaining facility drawings for Princeton and ~~NASA/GSFC Fairmont~~ are indicated at the following web site: <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov>

Visit to Proposed Facilities

Offerors may send designated Contractor personnel to attend meetings on the following dates and times in order to tour the five facilities and to ask facility questions that are relevant to the sites being toured:

Princeton, NJ (PRTN).....	February 15, 2005 at 10:00 AM EST
Largo, MD (LARGO).....	February 16, 2005 at 10:00 AM EST
Fairmont, WV	February 17, 2005 at 1:00 PM EST
Boulder, CO (BLDR-1 and BLDR-2).....	February 22, 2005 at 10:00 AM MST

The Government will make every effort to answer all appropriate questions posed by Contractor personnel during the visit or as follow-up questions and answers posted on the Q&A public website.

In order to meet its physical security requirements for background checks, the Government requires Contractors to complete and submit the forms provided on the website, <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov>, for each site to be visited. These forms, which will be needed to complete background checks of all designated personnel that expect to attend these site visits, must be received by the Government at the above address no later than January 21, 2005. The Government reserves the right to deny admission for any personnel that fail to pass the Government's background check.

L.10 PRE-AWARD SURVEY

The Government reserves the right for a survey team to visit the Offeror's facility(s) for the purpose of determining the technical and financial ability to perform. A current financial statement and other data pertinent to this purpose should be available at the time the team makes the visit. The team will also consider the technical and financial ability of proposed subcontractors. Examples of the type of technical, financial and other capability matters the team will-evaluate are (1) past experience with firm, (2) financial strength, (3) facilities, (4) ability to meet required delivery schedule, (5) subcontracting, (6) manpower availability and labor relations, (7) management controls and (8) any other areas pertinent to this offer.

L.11 ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS

The Government reserves the right:

1. To consider as acceptable only those proposals submitted in accordance with all technical requirements set forth or referenced in this solicitation and which demonstrate an understanding of the problems involved and the scope of the project.
2. To reject, as unacceptable, proposals deleting or altering technical requirements which are considered by the Government not to be beyond the state of the art nor impossible to attain.

L.12 UNACCEPTABLE OFFER TRANSMISSION METHODS

Submission of telegraphic (including mailgrams), telefax, or e-mail offers are not authorized.

L.13 Reserved

L.14 FINAL PROPOSAL REVISION

Upon completion of negotiations, all Offerors still within the competitive range will be requested to submit a final proposal revision. Following evaluation of final proposal revisions, the Offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the Government, considering the evaluation factors specified in Section M, will be selected for contract award.

L.15 SUBCONTRACTING SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-507

(a) Small and small disadvantaged businesses are encouraged to participate as prime contractors or as members of joint ventures with other small businesses. All interested contractors are reminded that the successful contractor will be expected to place subcontracts to the maximum practicable extent with small and small disadvantaged firms in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 95-507 and Subpart 19.7 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(b) The following are the minimum goals for this acquisition:

1. Subcontracts to small business firms ---- 15.0%
2. Subcontracts to Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns ---10.0%
3. Subcontracts to women-owned businesses --- 3.0%
4. Subcontracts to disabled veteran-owned business ---1%

These goals are considered to be minimum goals for NOAA's subcontracts not ceiling goals or maximum goals.

L.16 HUBZONE SUBCONTRACTING GOALS

(A) The Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) Act of 1997 created the HUBZone Program. The purpose of this program is to provide federal contracting assistance for qualified small business concerns located in historically underutilized business zones in an effort to increase employment opportunities, investments, and economic development in these areas. Only those contractors listed on the Small Business Administration's PRO-Net site (<http://www.sba.gov>) at the

time of contract award are qualified HUBZone contractors and can be considered by contractors in meeting their HUBZone small business subcontracting goals.

(B) The HUBZone goals established for the Department of Commerce are as follows:

1. FY2006 - 3% of the total value of the prime contract
2. FY2007 and subsequent years - 3.0% of the total value of the prime contract

L.17 INCURRING COSTS

The Government is not liable for any costs incurred by Offerors in submitting offers in response to this solicitation. Proposal costs may be included in an Offeror's indirect rates as appropriate.

L.18 SERVICE OF PROTEST (FAR 52.233-2) (AUG 1996)

(a) Protests, as defined in 33.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that are filed directly with an agency, and copies of any protests that are filed with the General Accounting Office (GAO) shall be served on the Contracting Officer (addressed as follows) by obtaining written and dated acknowledgment of receipt from:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA Acquisition Management Division 1315 East West Highway, Room 9734 Silver Spring, MD 20910

(b) The copy of any protest shall be received in the office designated above within one day of filing a protest with the GAO.

L.19 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE OF PROTEST

In addition to the above, protests shall also be served on the Contract Law Division of the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Finance and Litigation located at:

U.S. Department of Commerce Contract Law Division Office of the General Counsel Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room H5893 14th Street, N.W. and Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20230 ATTN: Mark Langstein FAX (202) 482-5858
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L.20 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - SERVICE OF PROTESTS (CAR 1352.233-71)
(MAR 2000)

An agency protest may be filed with either (1) the Contracting Officer, or (2) at a level above the Contracting Officer, with the agency Protest Decision Authority. See 64 Fed. Reg. 16,651 (April 6, 1999) (Internet site: <http://oamweb.osc.doc.gov/docs/car13.htm#car13>) for the procedures for filing agency protests at the level above the Contracting Officer (with the Protest Decision Authority).

Agency protests filed with the Contracting Officer shall be sent to the following address:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734
Silver Spring, MD 20910

If a protest is filed with either the Protest Decision Authority, or with the General Accounting Office (GAO), a complete copy of the protest (including all attachments) shall be served upon both the Contracting Officer and Contract Law Division of the Office of the General Counsel within one day of filing with the Protest Decision Authority or with GAO. Service upon the Contract Law Division shall be made, as follows:

U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of the General Counsel
Contract Law Division--Room 5893
Herbert C. Hoover Building
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230.
Attn: Mark Langstein
FAX: (202) 482-5858

L.21 INVITATION TO PROPOSE FINANCING TERMS (FAR 52.232-31)(OCT 1995)

(a) The Offeror is invited to propose terms under which the Government shall make contract financing payments during contract performance. The financing terms proposed by the Offeror shall be a factor in the evaluation of the Offeror's proposal. The financing terms of the successful Offeror and the clause, Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Items, at FAR 52.232-29, shall be incorporated in any resulting contract.

(b) The Offeror agrees that in the event of any conflict between the terms proposed by the Offeror and the terms in the clause at Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Items, at FAR 52.232-29, the terms of the clause at 52.232-29 shall govern.

(c) Because of statutory limitations (10 U.S.C. 2307(f) and 41 U.S.C. 255(f)), the Offeror's proposed financing shall not be accepted if it does not conform to the following limitations:

- (1) Delivery payments shall be made only for supplies delivered and accepted, or services rendered and accepted in accordance with the payment terms of this contract;
- (2) Contract financing payments shall not exceed 15 percent of the contract price in advance of any performance of work under the contract;

- (3) The terms and conditions of the contract financing must be appropriate and customary in the commercial marketplace; and
- (4) The terms and conditions of the contract financing must be in the best interest of the United States.
- (d) The Offeror's proposal of financing terms shall include the following:
 - (1) The proposed contractual language describing the contract financing (see FAR 32.202-2 for appropriate definitions of types of payments); and
 - (2) A listing of the earliest date and greatest amount at which each contract financing payment may be payable and the amount of each delivery payment. Any resulting contract shall provide that no contract financing payment shall be made at any earlier date or in a greater amount than shown in the Offeror's listing.
- (e) The Offeror's proposed prices and financing terms shall be evaluated to determine the cost to the United States of the proposal using the interest rate and delivery scheduled specified elsewhere in this solicitation.

L.22 NOTICE TO OFFERORS

This Solicitation is issued pursuant to a U.S. Department of Commerce Concept of Operations (CONOPS) Project Agreement. The full text of the Project Agreement for this acquisition is located at the following web site: <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov/>

L.23 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

Offerors may submit more than one proposal, as long as one proposal satisfies all of the mandatory requirements of the solicitation. As a minimum, one of the proposals submitted must be complete. The alternate proposal(s) may be in an abbreviated form following the same section format, but providing only those sections which differ in any way from those contained in the original proposal. Each proposal will include cost tables indicating the complete range of pricing options. In the case of price/cost options for a given configuration, an alternate proposal will not be required. If alternate proposals are submitted, such alternatives will be clearly labeled and identified on the cover page of each separate document. The reason for each alternate and its comparative benefits shall be explained. Each proposal submitted will be evaluated on its own merits. Alternate proposals may be no more than 100 pages in length.

Alternate proposals may be submitted within 10 calendar days from the proposal closing date and time specified in L.5, SUBMISSION OF OFFERS. Alternate proposals received during this 10 day period will only be accepted if the primary proposal was received by the closing date and time specified. Offerors are to state its intention of submitting alternate proposals with submission of its initial proposal. In addition, Offerors are to include with its initial proposal submission, a synopsis of its alternate proposal(s).